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(71) Applicant: **HERCULES INCORPORATED**
Hercules Plaza
Wilmington Delaware 19894(US)

(72) Inventor: **Nelson, Lawrence Lee**
5532 Doral Drive Fairway Falls
Wilmington Delaware 19808(US)

(74) Representative: **Lederer, Franz, Dr. et al**
Van der Werth, Lederer & Riederer
Patentanwälte Lucile-Grahn-Strasse 22
D-8000 München 80(DE)

(54) **Process for exfoliation of vermiculite.**

(57) A process for producing an aqueous dispersion of vermiculite ore particles is provided, which substantially eliminates the non-desirable gel formation that can occur after organo-cation exchange and during the washing of the ore particles to promote swelling, by including an electrolyte in solution that maintains the ionic strength of the washing suspension at least .003 molar.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88117232.4
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
D, A	<u>US - A - 4 608 303</u> (BALLARD et al.) * Claims * -----	1, 4, 5	C 01 B 33/20 C 04 B 14/20 C 04 B 20/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			C 01 B 33/00 C 04 B 14/00 C 04 B 20/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 26-07-1989	Examiner PAMMINGER
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	